

Message Text

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LUSAKA, JANUARY 28 -- THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN TODAY'S

TIMES OF ZAMBIA, THE PARTY-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPER:

QUOTE WHEN IAN SMITH MADE THE COVER OF TIME MAGAZINE LAST YEAR,

HE PROBABLY THOUGHT HE HAD FINALLY GAINED INTERNATIONAL

ACCEPTANCE AS A STATESMAN OF WORLD REPUTE. AND WHO COULD BLAME HIM?

HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY COULD CLAIM TO HAVE APPEARED

ON THE COVER OF THAT AMERICAN MAGAZINE WITH SUPER K, THE FORMER

AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WHO, IT IS CLAIMED BY SOME OF HIS

MORE RABID SUPPORTERS, PREVENTED WORLD WAR THREE?

KISSINGER HELPED BOTH SMITH AND VORSTER TO INTERNATIONAL

POLITICAL STARDOM. IN THE PAST, THEY HAD ALWAYS BEEN VILLIANS.

AS SOON AS THEY STARTED RECEIVING STAR BILLING NEXT TO NONE

OTHER THAN THE "MIRACLE WORKER" HIMSELF, EVEN THEY MUST HAVE

BEGUN TO WONDER.

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00266 281541Z

TODAY, IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO

ADMIRE SMITH AND VORSTER, BUT ESPECIALLY SMITH BECAUSE OF HIS

ALLEGED DEFIANCE OF THE WORLD. IT WOULD NOT BE SUPRISING IF

SOME OF THIS ADMIRATION HAD NOT GIVEN HIM A SWOLLEN HEAD.

JOSHUA NKOMO IS RIGHT TO BE FURIOUS WITH THE BRITISH WHO, ALONG

WITH KISSINGER, HAVE HELPED TO HARDEN SMITH'S INTRANSIGENCE.

THAT THE NATIONALISTS WERE "TAKEN FOR A RIDE" SEEMS SELF-EVIDENT. THE GENEVA TALKS, AS NKOMO RIGHTLY POINTS OUT TURN OUT TO HAVE BEEN BETWEEN SMITH AND THE BRITISH.

THE LAST THING THE WORLD EXPECTED WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE LONG-SUFFERING IVOR RICHARD WOULD BE LUNCHING ANOTHER JAUNT THROUGH SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE PRECISE PURPOSE OF SUCH AN EXERCISE WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE, IF WE WERE NOT BY NOW AWARE OF HOW MUCH BRITAIN WANTS TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF "DOING SOMETHING" ABOUT RHODESIA.

THE FRONTLINE STATES, WHOSE PATIENCE WITH BRITISH DALLIANCE WAS WEARING THINNER THAN A SAUSAGE SKIN, MUST BE DREADING ANOTHER ROUND OF AIMLESS TALKS WITH WELL-MEANING MR. RICHARD WHOSE SAFARI WILL PROBABLY COST HIM A FEW KILOGRAMS, BEFORE IT FIZZLES OUT AGAIN.

WHAT IS LEFT, AFTER ALL THE TALK? NKOMO POINTS OUT THAT SMITH IS HANGING AFRICANS "EVERY MONDAY" WHILE THE BRITISH LIKE NERO WHILE ROME WAS BURNING, DOES SOMETHING ELSE OTHER THAN HALTING THE MURDERS.

WHAT THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS - WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE PREPARING TO DEAL WITH THE SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM WITHOUT THE KISSINGERIAN ANTICS - OUGHT TO ASK THEMSELVES IN ALL HONESTY, IS WHETHER THEY WANT TO SEE ZIMBABWE LIBERATED OVER THE DEAD BODIES OF SO MANY WHITE SETTLERS.

THIS IS WHAT IS BOUND TO HAPPEN IN THE END. AS ALWAYS, SMITH
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00266 281541Z

BELIEVES THAT "MY AFRICANS" ARE DOCILE. BUT AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST, AND RECENTLY IN SOWETO, THIS DOCILITY IS A FIGMENT OF THE RACISTS' IMAGINATION.

WHEN THE AFRICANS ARE FINALLY ROUSED - AS THEY ARE BOUND TO BE IN THE END - NOT MANY OF THE 270,000 WHITES WILL BE LEFT TO ATONE FOR SMITH'S SINS. UNQUOTE. ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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